

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

16. (previously presented): An isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.

Claim 17 (canceled).

18. (previously presented): An isolated polypeptide having the amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. (previously presented): An isolated polypeptide having an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 2 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO:2.

20. (previously presented): An isolated polypeptide having an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 21-1039 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claims 21-24 (canceled).

25. (previously presented): A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual, and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

Claims 26-33 (canceled).

34. (currently amended): A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence consisting of

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amino acids 2 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual, and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

35. (currently amended): A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 21-1039 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual, and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

Claims 36, 37 and 38 (canceled).

39. (previously presented). The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the individual is a human, a mouse or a rat.

40. (previously presented): The vaccine composition of claim 25, wherein said adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of Freund's complete adjuvant, Freund's incomplete adjuvant,  $\text{AlK}(\text{SO}_4)_2$ ,  $\text{AlNa}(\text{SO}_4)_2$ ,  $\text{AlNH}_4(\text{SO}_4)_2$ , silica, kaolin, carbon polynucleotides, QuilA and Alhydrogel.

41. (previously presented): The isolated polypeptide of claim 16, said polypeptide having at least a 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

42. (previously presented): The vaccine composition of claim 25, said polypeptide having at least a 99% identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

43. (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to amino acids 512 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.~~

44. (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to amino acids 800 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.~~

45. (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to amino acids 21 to 800 of SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective antistreptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.~~

46. (currently amended): An isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to amino acids 472 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective anti-streptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.~~

47. (previously presented): A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide <sup>consisting</sup> ~~having~~ at least 95% identity to amino acids 512 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective anti-streptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.

48. (previously presented): A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% identity to amino acids 800 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective anti-streptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.

49. (previously presented): A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% identity to amino acids 21 to 800 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said isolated polypeptide elicits a protective anti-streptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.

50. (previously presented): A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 95% identity to amino acids 472 to 1039 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said isolated

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polypeptide elicits a protective anti-streptococcal immune response in an individual when administered to the individual.